(e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such fire in future; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken for proper check on procurement and supplies to ensure smooth functioning of the Corporation and avoid losses?

THE DEPUTY MINISTRY IN THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI C.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On 23-07-1991, there was a fire accident at Reclaimer Machine II in Mine II of Neyveli Lignite corporation. The Machine was under stoppage for planned repair work in hydraulic cylinder for hoisting and lowering of bucket wheel boom. The fire occurred in the belt below the Reclaimer. This has resulted in a loss of about Rs. 1.5 lakhs, mainly on electrical cables and equipments.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. An enquiry has been conducted in this regard by a Committee comprising of Chief Engineers of the concerned zones of Mine II. The findings of the Committee are to the following effects:-

As the Reclaimer machine was under stoppage for planned repair works, a lot of welding work was going on that particular day. The hot metal from the welding works had fallen on the lignite dust accumulations at the bottom and caused smouldering. Fire got aggravated by heavy winds and flared up into an open fire which was subsequently put out. The Committee also suggested measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

(e) and (f). Following steps have been taken in this regard:

1) All the fire fighting devices such as water spray, fire extinguisher etc. are being kept in ready condition.

2) Sand and other fire fighting equipments have been provided in the machine.

3) Measures have been taken to adopt additional precaution where welding is to be done by checking the area thoroughly and spraying profusely with water after the work is over.

4) A system has been evolved to clear the fine lignite dusts in cable ducts and the cavities in structures either by water spray or by wind blowing to prevent accumulation of dust.

Development of Water Resources

4728. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether priority is given to development of water resources in order to provide sufficient water for development of Forests as well as for population located in remote areas;

(b) whether the gracvity system has been explored for supply of water on the slopes

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether bunds/dams are constructed for dual purpose of stopping water as well as conserving soil?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIVIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The National Water Policy adopted in September, 1987, recommends that National Resource Development Project should, as far as possible, be planned and developed as multipurpose projects. Provision for drinking water should be a primary consideration. The Projects are also required to meet the water requirement for various other purposes, which would include forest development also.

(b) Most of surface irrigation system

works on the gravity system including cultivation on slopes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. check bunds are provided for soil conservatition and dams for storage of water in the reservoirs.

Thermal Project of NTPC in Kerala

4729. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
DR. A.K. PATEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation had proposed to construct a major installation near the proposed site for a thermal project of NTPC at Kayamkulam in Kerala;

(b) whether the installation is now proposed to be shifted to an area at Sansthamokotta; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Loss Caused by Chandil Dam in Bihar

4730. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chandil Dam, a part of the Subernarekla Multi purpose Project in Bihar, has claimed a number of lives;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whethr this has also caused damage to crops and property in a number of villages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MNISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA:(a) and (b). The Project Administration has reported that no case of death by drowning or directly attributable to the flooding of villages by Chandil dam has come to their notice.

(c) and (d). The Chandil dam has been constructed upto spillway crest level. With water impounding upto the crest, 6 villages were fully affeoted, in another 12 villages, houses and agricultural land were affected partially and in 29 other villages, water entered the agriculture fields without affecting main body of villages or houses. In some of the later category the paddy fields to the extent of 5% were affected. Payment of compensation for land and houses acquired has been completed in ail but one in the first 30 villages of Chandil submergence area, except for cases where there has been disputes over ownership rights. Even after payment of compensation villagers continued cultivation in acquired land. The Government is not obliged to pay cmpensation for loss of standing crop on acquired land.

Disinvestment Proposal of ICC

4731. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has submitted any proposal for disinvestment of 20 percent of the Government holdings in the Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and